

Stephen L. Trant  
Principal

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**DONALD. B. DIXON-LYLE RAY SMITH**  
**MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
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September 14, 2006

Dear Dixon-Smith Parents and Students,

The opening of our school has been a wonderful experience for my staff and me, and we hope that it has been an equally enjoyable experience for you as well. I cannot thank you enough for your patience and understanding regarding our delayed opening. I know that those extra four days of "summer" caused a hardship for many of you.

This past Tuesday night, the Stafford County School Board approved a plan to make up the time missed because of our delayed opening. This plan will insure that we meet all educational mandates concerning the hours/days that students are required to be in school. That plan is as follows:

- Students will attend school for an extra ten (10) minutes per day beginning on Monday, September 25, 2006. This will continue through the first semester which is scheduled to end on Friday, January 26, 2007.
- Students will attend school for a full day during exams on January 24, 25, and 26. They were originally scheduled to be released two (2) hours early on these days.

To fulfill the requirement of ten (10) extra minutes a day, we will begin school at 8:10 a.m. instead of the original time of 8:20 a.m. Students will be picked up from their bus stop ten (10) minutes earlier than their current pickup time. At the conclusion of the first semester, Dixon-Smith Middle School will revert back to the regular Stafford County school schedules and calendar.

Throughout August and early September, it has been my objective to inform you in a timely manner in regard to our school opening, delays, and schedules. If there is anything that you feel could have been communicated in a different or better way, I would love to hear from you.

Again, my sincere thanks for all that you have done to make this school happen for our wonderful community. I am truly looking forward to working with you throughout our first year at Dixon-Smith Middle School.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Trant  
Principal